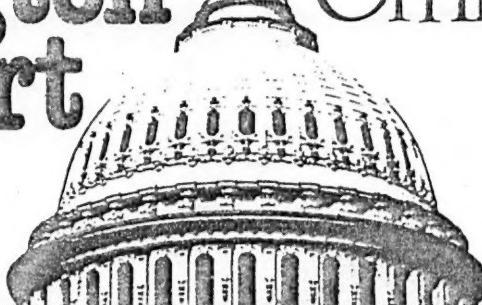


Washington Match

Report



March 1982

Home Health Care: Better Care, Better Price

Helen Hayes has won two Academy Awards and is known as the "First Lady of the American Stage," but when she portrays an 81-year-old woman who's concerned with meeting the challenges of growing old, it's no act.

The renowned actress's latest role is that of an expert on growing old: she's written two books on it, served with the White House Conference on Aging, and also served on the Board of Directors of the National Council on Aging.

She joined a number of other experts recently to testify before a Senate panel on behalf of Sen. Orrin Hatch's bill that will provide health care at home for the aged and infirm.

"The changes demanded by old age are tough enough to accept," Miss Hayes said. "Maintaining as much independence as you can makes it easier to yield gracefully to those changes."

Such independence is one aim of Hatch's bill, which would abolish current rules that require recipients of Medicare or Medicaid benefits to be institutionalized. The bill also promotes the development of home health care services in rural and other areas currently lacking those services and provides a tax credit for families who care for elderly relatives in their homes.

Fulfilling those purposes



Sen. Hatch with Helen Hayes, who joined other experts to support his bill that provides health care at home for the aged and infirm.

psychological comforts that accompany living at home and being independent, he said, can tremendously bolster the physical well-being of an older person. Dr. Phillip Brickner, the founder of a program that treats elderly patients at home, has seen confusion, frailty and fright accompany a patient's transfer from home to an institution. "Our patients often recognize the risk to themselves of moving away from all the familiar clues of their own apartment or home," Dr. Brickner said.

A Salt Lake City physician, Dr. Alfred Abaunza, agreed. "These people want to stay at home, they want to be self-sufficient," he said.

That self-sufficiency is also cost efficient, according to numerous studies. Dr. Brickner said his patients could be treated at home for about 60 percent of what it

who were treated at home; treatment for the same patients in rest homes or hospitals averaged over \$1,000 a month.

Other figures also make a case for home health care. As new frontiers of medical science are entered and tamed, the number of Americans who are over 65 is expected to rise considerably--by 25 percent--over the next 20 years.

"As America grows older, something will have to be done," Hatch said. "The problem is very real, and each one of us will one day be affected by the way we choose to resolve it."

A growing number of people think home health care is the best way. Twenty-three co-sponsors have joined Hatch in supporting his bill, along with numerous health organizations and health care professionals; Helen Hayes joins them.

MINUTES OF THE WASATCH CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

March 8, 1982

12:10 P.M.

Commission Room

Present were:	Gilbert Olsen Calvin Giles R. Raymond Green, M.D. Elizabeth Murdock NaDene Probst Lorraine Allen Fay McGuire Phil Wright Nelda Duke Maxine McAfee Steve Noyes	Chairman Vice-Chairman Medical Officer Member Member Member Commissioner Health Officer Secretary Nurse Representative of the Bureau of Reclamation
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Welcome: Mr. Olsen called the meeting to order and welcomed members present and introduced Mr. Steve Noyes of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Strawberry: Mr. Noyes stated the Bureau of Reclamation is very concerned about the possibility of pollution to the Strawberry Reservoir as it fills and trailers and cabins are removed from the area. Disposal of sewage systems and outside privies pose a problem. Mr. Noyes stated the Bureau will pay cabin owners up to \$500 for removal of cabins. He asked for recommendations from our board as to what regulations should be followed in disposing of septic tank systems and outside privies.

After some discussion Mrs. Murdock made a motion the board set up the following recommendations:

- #1 All tanks, regardless of size, must be removed or pumped out by a licensed scavenger service who will keep a record of each pumping.
- #2 After being pumped tanks must be filled with dirt or sand and covered.

Mrs. Allen seconded motion. Motion carried.

A motion was also made by Mr. Giles that this board make recommendation to the Bureau of Reclamation through the County Commission that inspection of septic tank clean up be attached to the potential \$500 payment to the property user. Dr. Green seconded motion. Motion carried. Mr. Noyes will investigate the legality of this motion and report back to Mr. Wright.

Resolutions: Mr. Wright reported all city and towns except Heber City and Soldier Summit have signed the new City-County Health Resolution.

- Chemical Vapors: Mr. Wright has received word that PCP has been used to treat some log homes. It is recommended that inside logs be sealed with oil.
- Statistics: Mr. Wright reported Utah's statistics.
There were less births in Utah last year
Abortions dropped 6%
Deaths increased 2%
Divorce rate was 5.3 the same as last year
Number of marriages increased 2.6%
- Immunization Law: Dr. Green reported the Immunization Law passed and we are now updating records of school children. We hope to get this project completed by the end of the school year.
Mr. Olsen made a motion we contact the PTA for volunteer help with this program. Mr. Giles seconded motion. Motion carried. Mrs. Murdock volunteered her services also.
- TCMHC: Some board members met with members from the Timpanogos Community Mental Health Center and were asked to get a survey from schools, Family Services, and local doctors and compile statistics to see what services we are receiving through the center. They are still working on this survey.
- Local Health Dept. Act: Mr. Wright stated he has a copy of the final draft of the New Local Health Department Act and will be meeting with other directors this week.
- Temporary Food Service Reg: Mr. Wright reported he is working on a Temporary Food Service Regulation.
- Solid Waste Special Service District: Mr. Wright also reported the county is setting up a Solid Waste Special Service District for maintaining the Sanitary Land Fill.
- Health Officers Meeting: Mr. Wright stated he will be attending the Health Officers Meetings in Salt Lake on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week.
- Next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 19, 1982, 12:00 P.M. in the Commission Room of the Courthouse.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

Chairman

ESB/ JMW